

emission surface of Higuchi et al., as suggested by the Examiner. Fig. 3 of Wortman et al., for example, appears to disclose a light directing film 30 provided with high prisms and low prisms on the surface. Such a light directing film 30 is quite different from the light guide plate employed in Higuchi et al. Perhaps most important, the light directing film 30 is not a light guide plate, as defined in the claims of the present application. The claims recite that the light guide plate has an incidence end face provided by minor face. On the other hand, the light directing film 30 of Wortman et al. does not have such an incidence end face provided by a minor face. In Fig. 8 of Wortman et al., the light directing film is represented by numeral 158. As can be seen, when the light directing film is combined with a wedge-shaped light guide (represented with numeral 154) the light directing film is separated from the wedge-shaped light guide. Any modifications to the guide plate 1 of Higuchi et al. should be derived from the light guide 154 of Wortman et al., not from the light directing film 158 of Wortman et al.

The light guide plate 154 has a flat emission face. There is no description that this flat emission face can be provided with light scattering elements and a rough area having a roughness less than that of the light scattering elements. Please note that the light directing film 158 is completely different from the light guide 154 in optical function. The light guide 154 has an incidence end face, and a light source 152 is disposed next to the incidence end face. On the contrary, the light directing film 158 is supplied with light from an emission face of the light guide plate 154. In other words, the light directing film 158 has no incidence end face provided by a minor face, but has an incidence prismatic face provided by a major face.

Wortman et al. teaches how the light directing film 30 should be combined with a light guide plate. Specifically, Wortman et al. teaches in Fig. 8 that the prismatic surfaces of the light directing film should face the light guide plate. Like Wortman et al., Higuchi et al. includes a prism sheet 4 facing an emission face of a light guide plate. A combination of Higuchi et al. and Wortman et al. would result in the surfaces 4A and 4B (see Fig. 1 of Higuchi et al.) being replaced with the surfaces 36, 42, 38, 38' of Wortman et al. There is absolutely no suggestion to use the prismatic surface of Wortman et al. on the emission face of the Higuchi et al. light guide plate. Referring again to Fig. 8 of Wortman et al., the prisms are on the light receiving side of the light directing film. On the other hand, the claims recite that the light scattering elements and the rough areas are on a light emission face.

In summary, there is no suggestion to modify the exiting surface 5 (see Fig. 1 of Higuchi et al. to instead use the prism surface shown in Fig. 3 of Wortman et al.

Second, even if the exiting surface 5 of Higuchi et al. were modified, the modified device

would not meet the claimed requirements of the present application. The light directing film 30 or 158 of Wortman et al. has a prismatic face provided with high and low prisms. These prisms redirect light through regular redirection such as through refraction and inner-reflection. The prisms are not "light scattering elements." As is well-known, "light scattering" involves irregular, random redirection of light, perhaps caused by a rough surface.

Wortman et al. merely disclose prismatic light directing films, which are completely different on optical function. The prismatic light directing films have no incidence end face or an emission face that is provided with light scattering elements and a rough area, with the roughness of the rough area being smaller than the light scattering elements.

In view of the foregoing, it would not have been obvious to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner, and even if the combination would have been made, it would not produce the present invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under the judiciary created doctrine of obviousness type double-patenting in view of claims 3, 6 and 9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,339,458 to Ohkawa. However, Ohkawa is assigned to Enplas Corporation, and the present application is assigned to both Enplas Corporation and Yasuhiro Koike. Moreover, claims 3, 6 and 9 of Ohkawa recite that the distribution is set so that a covering density of said first emission promotion regions and that of the second emission promotion regions a depending on position in the emission promotion face. These recitations are not contained in claims 1-9 of the present application. Additionally, claims 1-9 of the present application recite that the emission face is provided with a plurality of lights scattering elements and a rough area formed around the light scattering elements, the rough area having a roughness degree which is less than that of the light scattering elements. These recitations are not contained in claims 3, 6 and 9 of Ohkawa. For all of these reasons, it is submitted that the obviousness type double-patenting rejection should be withdrawn.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

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